

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

✓ Please cancel claims 4, 11 and 12 without prejudice.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A frame~~ An apparatus comprising
configured to:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface
configured to generate a frame ~~(i) be~~ transmitted on ~~a~~ said
5 ~~network; and (ii),~~ said frame configured to store one or more data
packets in a plurality of channels, wherein a first ~~one or more~~ of
said plurality of channels is configured to store at least one of
two ~~one~~ or more fragments of said one or more data packets.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~frame~~ apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein a second ~~one or more~~ of said channels is
configured to store only complete packets of said one or more data
packets from a fixed bandwidth source.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~frame~~ apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said network comprises a fiber optic network.

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~frame~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said frame comprises one or more offset locators configured to point to a next fragment of said ~~one~~ two or more fragments.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~frame~~ apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said frame further comprises one or more header ~~locators~~ locations configured to identify said next fragment.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~frame~~ apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said frame further comprises one or more trailer ~~location~~ locations each configured to identify either (i) an end of said one or more offset locators or (ii) an end of said one or more data packets.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~frame~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of channels comprises a fixed bandwidth ~~channels~~ channel.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~frame~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a payload portion of each of said one or more data packets is configured to be reloaded with a partial data load.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~frame~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said one or more data packets is selected from a group consisting of ~~IP~~ Internet Protocol packets, Packet-Over-SONET ~~(POS)~~ packets, ~~PPP~~ Point-to-Point Protocol packets, ~~ATM~~ Asynchronous Transfer Mode cell packets, G.702-based ~~PDH~~ Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy (T1/T3) packets, SRP Spatial Reuse Protocol packets, and Frame Relay packets, ~~and other appropriate packet data types.~~

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes coupled to a network, each ~~node~~ of said nodes configured to receive ~~and/or~~ and transmit one or more of a plurality of frames, ~~wherein each of said plurality of frames is~~ configured to store one or more data packets in a plurality of channels, wherein ~~one~~ (i) two or more of said channels ~~is~~ are configured to store ~~one~~ two or more fragments from a first of said one or more data packets, respectively, and (ii) said two or more channels are separated by an offset pointer at least one of said channels.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein data from each of a number of ~~source channels~~ sources is dynamically allocated among said plurality of channels in response to bandwidth demands.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein after fragmentation, ~~each of said one or more first data packet packets~~ comprise one or more ~~comprises an~~ offset locator ~~locators~~ configured to point to a next of said one or more data packets storing a next fragment of said ~~one~~ two or more fragments.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein ~~each of said next one or more data packet packets~~ further comprise one or more ~~comprises a~~ header location ~~locators~~ configured to identify said next fragment.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein each of said ~~one or more first~~ and said next data packets further comprise one or more trailer locations configured to identify either (i) an end of said ~~one or more~~ offset locator ~~locators~~ or (ii) an end of said ~~one or more first~~ data packet ~~packets~~.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said plurality of channels comprise fixed bandwidth channels.

19. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a payload portion of each of said one or more data packets is configured to be reloaded with a partial data load.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for transferring data, comprising the steps of:

(A) ~~receiving and/or~~ transmitting one or more of a plurality of frames;

5 (B) configuring each of said frames to store one or more data packets in a plurality of channels; and

(C) configuring a first and a second of said channels to store one or more fragments of said one or more data packets, ~~each separated and~~ a first of said fragments in said first channel being
10 linked by an offset pointer to a second of said fragments in said second channel.

21. (NEW) The method according to claim 20, wherein said offset pointer is transferred after said first fragment in said first channel.

22. (NEW) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

encapsulating each of said one or more fragments with a header and a trailer.

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23. (NEW) The method according to claim 20, wherein said first channel and said second channel are separated by at least one of said plurality of channels.
